

Statement of Work

Title: Twenty-Third International Neurotoxicology Conference:
Neurotoxicity in Development and Aging

Dates: September 17-21, 2006

Place: Doubletree Hotel Conference Center, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA

Period of Performance: Date of award to June 2006 – September 2007

I. Purpose:

The overall objective of this conference is to bring together experts from academia, industry, governmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss the state-of-the-science of what is known, identify information gaps, and help define future directions for research to advance our fundamental knowledge of the causes, mechanisms, related new technologies, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of environmentally induced or exacerbated diseases and disorders of the nervous system in children and adults.

This conference of internationally-recognized experts, neuroscientists, clinicians, active clinical and basic researchers, epidemiologists, neurotoxicologists, regulatory scientists and other informed and interested individuals will provide data and information to draw upon and apply to important scientific, environmental, clinical, treatment, methodological, epidemiological, policy, regulatory, risk assessment and other emerging issues in developmental neurotoxicology.

Specific Objectives. NTX XXIII will bring together experts in the fields of neurodevelopmental disorders, neurotoxicology, neurobiology and neuroimmunology to discuss how environmental agents may disrupt brain development through the induction or exacerbation of immune system dysfunction. The assembled group will focus on the potential implications of environmentally-mediated immune dysfunction for autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Recommendations for advancing research in each session theme area will be developed.

Developmental toxicology, neuroimmunology, autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders will be a focus throughout the Conference. However, since this is the 22nd meeting in a well-established conference series, it is also our objective to "build in" time for sessions related to other contemporary issues in neurotoxicology to allow greater participation. Sessions on neurotoxicants and neurodegenerative disease, risk assessment strategies, public health and policy, design and interpretation of epidemiological studies for assessing developmental neurotoxicity, endocrine disruptors and their effects on brain development, the National Children's Study, translational research, and open sessions for talks and poster presentations selected from submitted abstracts are also a key part of the program.